REMARKS

In the Official Action mailed on **06 September 2005**, the Examiner reviewed claims 1, 3-9, 11-17, and 19-27. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-9, 11, 12, 14-17, 19, 20, and 22-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al (USPN 6,208,183, hereinafter "Li") in view of any one of Self et al. (USPN 6,112,308 hereinafter "Self '308"), (USPN 6,009,532 hereinafter "Self '532") in view of Bar-Niv (USPN 5,631,591 hereinafter "Bar-Niv"), in view of Oman et al. (USPN 4,635,186 hereinafter "Oman"), in view of Eggebrecht et al. (USPN 4,495,594 hereinafter "Eggebrecht), in view of Lenk (USPN 6,538,516 hereinafter "Lenk"), in view of Chesavage (USPN 6,239,626 hereinafter "Chesavage '626"), in view of Locker et al. (USPN 6,577,174 hereinafter "Locker"), in view of Doblar et al. (USPN 6,516,422 hereinafter "Doblar"), in view of Smith et al. (USPN 6,925,135 hereinafter "Smith"), in view of Yabuki et al. (USPN 5,332,978 hereinafter "Yabuki"). and further in view of Chesavage (USPN 6,925,135 hereinafter "Chesavage '305"). Claims 5, 13, and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Li et al. any one of Self '308, Self '532 in view of Bar-Niv, Oman, Eggebrecht, and further in view of any one Lenk, Chesavage '626, Locker et al., Doblar et al., Smith et al., Yabuki et al., Chesavage '350, and further in view of Coleman et al (USPN 4,151,473, hereinafter "Coleman").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Independent claims 1, 9, and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Li in view of any one of Self '308, Self '532, Bar-Niv, Oman, and Eggebrecht and further in view of any one of Lenk, Chesavage '626, Locker, Doblar, Smith, Yabuki, and Chesavage '350. Applicant respectfully points out that Lenk, and Locker teach synchronizing similar frequencies in order to remove slight discrepancies between the signal frequencies (see Lenk, Abstract, and see Locker, Abstract). Moreover, Lenk teaches synchronizing based on a signal which is

dependent on one of the synchronizing frequencies (see Lenk, column 1, lines 52-60) and Locker teaches pre-synchronizing two circuits and maintaining synchronization within a tolerance (see Locker, column 3, Lines 29-37). Chesavage '626 and Doblar teach a method for clock selection (see Chesavage '626, column 2, lines 11-22, and see Doblar, column 1, lines 50-61). Furthermore, Doblar and Chesavage '350 teach methods for clock redundancy (see Doblar, column 1, lines 48-50, Chesavage '350, column 1, lines 6-10, and see Chesavage '350, column 7, claim 1). Yabuki teaches a method for speedy frequency switching in a frequency synthesizer (see Yabuki, column 2, lines 22-27). Smith teaches a method that uses a single frequency source (see Smith, column 6, lines 22-25, and see Smith, column 7, lines 28-31).

In contrast, the present invention teaches a method to generate a **maximum common frequency** of two sources (see paragraphs [0023]-[0026] of the instant application). This is advantageous because it means that different chips can function together and communicate with each other at a **maximum common frequency** without a common clock, pre-synchronization, or any additional special preparation (see paragraphs [0037]-[0041] of the instant application). Moreover, the present invention facilitates multiple independently designed chips communicating with each other without special consideration from the chip designers during the design phase.

Nothing in Li in view of any one of Self '308, Self '532, Bar-Niv, Oman, and Eggebrecht and further in view of any one of Lenk, Chesavage '626, Locker, Doblar, Smith, Yabuki, and Chesavage '350 teaches a method for generating a maximum common frequency to enable clocked chips to communicate with each other. Moreover, the methods that are taught by Li in view of any one of Self '308, Self '532, Bar-Niv, Oman, and Eggebrecht and further in view of any one of Lenk, Chesavage '626, Locker, Doblar, Smith, Yabuki, and Chesavage '350 lack the advantages of the present invention because the designers must account for

two chips to communicate with each other during the design phase, or chip communication is limited to chips operating at the same frequency.

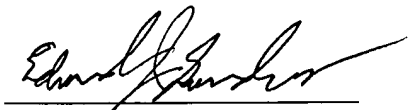
Accordingly, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 to clarify that the present invention asynchronously determines a maximum common frequency between two independent. These amendments find support in paragraphs [0023]-[0026] of the instant application.

Hence, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, and 17 as presently amended are in condition for allowance. Applicant also submits that claims 3-8 and 25, which depend upon claim 1, claims 11-16 and 26, which depend upon claim 9, and claims 19-24 and 27, which depend upon claim 17, are for the same reasons in condition for allowance and for reasons of the unique combinations recited in such claims.

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is presently in form for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Date: 26 September 2005

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